

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Closure of Upper Chesapeake Bay to Oyster Harvest — Effective 10/1/2020

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces that the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) bridges are closed to all oyster harvest. This notice supersedes all notices effective prior to October 1, 2020 affecting oyster harvest areas north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) bridges.

PURPOSE OF THIS CLOSURE

This closure is necessary due to low abundance of oysters, low natural spat set, and potential impacts of persistently low salinity levels. Specific sites previously planted by county oyster committees may be opened in a future notice.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This closure applies to all individuals who catch oysters recreationally or commercially.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The closure is effective at 12:01 a.m. October 1, 2020. The area is closed until further notice. A new notice will be issued when the area or any previously planted portion of the area is reopened to harvest.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11G

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fishing and Boating Services at 410-260-8302

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary of Natural Resources